

What is claimed is:

1. A bi-directional tensioning device for tensioning an anchoring line and a threadable line comprising:
 - i) a ratcheting system serving to wind the threadable line;
 - ii) a first and second anchoring line attachment means positioned on opposite ends of the ratcheting system, wherein the anchoring line may be removably attached to either anchoring line attachment means; and
 - iii) a first and second guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line.
2. A bi-directional tensioning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratcheting system comprises a rotatable drive element serving to wind the tension line; two parallel plate members to which the rotatable drive element is mounted, wherein the parallel plate members form bifurcating prolongations on either end of the device; at least one ratchet wheel connected integrally in rotation to the drive element, wherein the ratchet wheel includes directionally oriented notches; a drive part, serving to introduce the rotary movement into the drive element; a drive pawl coupled to the drive part; a blocking mechanism; and a control cam serving to transfer the blocking mechanism associated with the ratchet wheel into an inoperative position;
3. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the blocking mechanism comprises a blocking pawl, a support surface interconnecting the plate

members, and a spring mounted on the support surface, wherein the spring braces blocking pawl into blocking engagement with the ratchet wheel.

4. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 3, wherein the blocking pawl is of slider-like construction.

5. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the first guide means interconnects the two parallel plates and is spaced next to the blocking mechanism.

6. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 5, wherein the first guide means comprises a bolt.

7. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 5, wherein the first guide means comprises a gradient support surface.

8. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the second guide means is spaced between the second anchoring line attachment means and the rotatable drive element.

9. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 8, wherein the second guide means comprises a support surface interconnecting the parallel plate members.

10. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the first anchoring line attachment means.
11. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the second anchoring line attachment means.
12. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the drive pawl is mounted slidably counter to the action of a spring.
13. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 12, wherein the spring is a torsion spring.
14. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the drive pawl has been lengthened in order to accommodate winding a greater length of the threadable line.
15. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 2, wherein the drive pawl is provided with a handle by means of which it may be actuated.
16. A bi-directional tensioning device for tensioning an anchoring line and a threadable line comprising:

- iv) a ratcheting means for winding the threadable line;
- v) a first and second anchoring line attachment means positioned on opposite ends of the ratcheting system, wherein the anchoring line may be removably attached to either anchoring line attachment means; and
- vi) a first and second guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line.

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17. A bi-directional tensioning device for tensioning an anchoring line and a threadable line comprising:

- vii) two spaced parallel plate members;
- viii) a rotatable drive element mounted between the plate members;
- ix) at least one ratchet wheel integrally connected to the rotatable drive element, wherein the ratchet wheel includes directionally oriented notches;
- x) a pivot lever mounted on the drive element;
- xi) a drive pawl pivotably attached to the pivot lever;
- xii) a blocking mechanism operationally coupled to the plate members, wherein the blocking mechanism comprises a blocking pawl, a support surface interconnecting the plate members, and a spring mounted on the support surface, wherein the spring braces blocking pawl into blocking engagement with the ratchet wheel;
- xiii) a first and second anchoring line attachment means interconnecting the parallel plate members at remote ends of the device, wherein the anchor line may be removable attached to either anchoring line attachment means; and

xiv) a first and second guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line.

18. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the blocking pawl is of slider-like construction.

19. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the first guide means interconnects the two parallel plates and is spaced next to the support surface of the blocking mechanism.

20. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 19, wherein the first guide means comprises a bolt.

21. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 19, wherein the first guide means comprises a gradient support surface.

22. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the second guide means is spaced between the second anchoring line attachment means and the rotatable drive element.

23. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 22, wherein the second guide means comprises a support surface interconnecting the parallel plate members.

24. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the first end of the device.
25. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the second end of the device.
26. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive pawl is mounted slidably counter to the action of a spring.
27. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 26, wherein the spring is a torsion spring.
28. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive pawl has been lengthened in order to accommodate winding a greater length of the threadable line.
29. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive pawl is provided with a handle by means of which it may be actuated.

30. A bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive part comprises a control cam serving to transfer the blocking mechanism associated with the ratchet wheel into an inoperative position.

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31. A method for changing the direction of the power stroke associated with a bi-directional tensioning device of the type having a first and second anchoring line attachment means from "push" to "pull" comprising:

xv) detaching the threadable line from the ratcheting system of the bi-directional tensioning device;

xvi) detaching the anchoring line from the first anchoring line attachment means;

xvii) attaching the anchoring line to the second anchoring line attachment means; and

feeding the threadable tensioning line into the ratcheting system from the first end of the device